

IN THE CLAIMS

1-102. (canceled)

103. (currently amended) A computer system ~~operated by a first user, the computer system~~ comprising:
- memory; and
 - software adapted to cause the computer system to store a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks, ~~each digital information block is generated by an individual one of a plurality of second users of one or more second computers;~~
 - to store for each link, a bid amount that the computer system associates with that link, and
 - to store for each link, at least one identifier that the computer system associates with that link, wherein the at least one identifier identifies a characteristic pertaining to the respective digital information block for that link;
 - wherein each digital information block is under the control of an individual one of a plurality of second users of one or more second computers;
 - ~~wherein each of the links is associated with~~ is a reference to a single one of the digital information blocks;
 - ~~wherein each digital information block and its link are associated with at least one identifier;~~
 - ~~wherein each of the links has associated with it a bid amount the respective one of the second users attaches to that link, and wherein each link and its associated bid amount are stored in the memory;~~
 - wherein the computer system has received the at least one identifier to be associated with each particular link from the respective second user controlling the digital information block associated with that particular link;
 - wherein the computer system has received the bid amount to be associated with each particular link from the respective second user controlling the digital information block associated with that particular link;

~~wherein a third computer of a third user is presented with a list of links, wherein the computer system supplies a third computer of a third user a list of links~~ and wherein the list of links is ordered by the computer system, responsive to the software and to at least the bid amounts associated with the links ~~by the respective second users; and~~

~~wherein the list of links is configured to permit a third user to select any one of the links wherein the computer system configures the list of links to give the third user the ability to select any one of the links~~ and, by using the selected link, to download the digital information block associated with the selected link, for viewing data contained therein.

104. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein~~[[:]]~~ the digital information blocks each ~~consist of~~ comprise at least one electronic file ~~controlled by a respective one of the second users.~~

105. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in ~~claim 104~~ claim 103, wherein ~~at least one of the electronic files~~ each digital information block comprises an electronic medical image.

106. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the ~~bid amount associated with a link is updateable by the respective second user~~ computer system updates the bid amount associated with a link in response to receiving a transmission to change the bid amount from the respective second user.

107. (currently amended) A storage medium containing computer readable instructions for causing a ~~respective computer~~ system ~~operated by a first user to~~ generate a graphical user interface (GUI) providing a listing of N links;

~~wherein each of the links is associated with a reference to a single digital information block;~~

~~wherein each of the digital information blocks and its associated link is generated by~~ is under the control of an individual one of a plurality of second users of one or more second computers;

wherein each digital information block and its respective link are associated with at least one identifier, the at least one identifier identifying a characteristic pertaining to the respective digital information block;

wherein each digital information block and its respective link are associated with a bid amount, the bid amount being set by the second user in control of that digital information block;

~~wherein each of the links has associated with it a bid amount the respective one of the second users attaches to that link, and wherein each link~~ [[and]], its associated bid amount and its at least one identifier are stored in [[the]]a storage medium of the first user's computer system;

~~wherein a third computer of a third user is presented with a list of links, wherein the listing of N links is supplied by the computer system to a third computer of a third user and wherein the listing of N links is ordered by the first user's computer system, responsive to the computer readable instructions and at least the bid amounts associated with the links by the respective second users;~~

~~wherein the list of links is configured to permit a third user wherein the listing of N links is configured by the computer system to give the third user the ability to select any one of the links and, by using the selected link, to download the digital information block associated with the selected link, for viewing data contained therein; and~~

wherein N is an integer greater than 1.

108. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the bid amount associated with a link is ~~updateable by~~ updated by the computer system in response to receiving a transmission to change the bid amount from the respective second user.

109-111. (canceled)

112. (previously presented) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein each of the N links is associated with a digital information block comprising a respective electronic medical image.

113.-151. (canceled)

152. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the ~~ordering of the list of links is established by further using the electronic labeling of the digital information block~~ list of links is ordered by the computer system, responsive to the software, to the bid amounts associated with the links, and to the at least one identifier associated with the links.

153. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in ~~claim 152~~ claim 105, wherein the ~~electronic labeling at least one identifier~~ includes at least one of the following: modality of the medical image, subspecialty medical specialty, speed of response by time limit for receiving a response from the third user, and body part.

154. (withdrawn – currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the order of the list of links is established by evaluating the bid amount, a time of entry of the bid amount, and at least one additional criterion.

155. (withdrawn) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the order in the list of links is determined by non-monetary variables.

156. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in ~~claim 103~~ claim 105, wherein the ~~bid amount is paid when a third user selects a particular link, downloads the associated digital information block, and takes an action required by the second user associated with the selected link~~ wherein the computer system is configured to act as an intermediary facilitating the execution of a contract, between a second user and the third user, in a marketplace wherein the second user agrees to pay the bid amount if the third user supplies a medical diagnosis report for

reading a respective electronic medical image of the digital information block under the control of that second user.

157-159. (canceled)

160. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein, for the plurality of links, each link and its associated at least one identifier are stored in at least one database.

161. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 103, further comprising at least one communications subsystem for transmitting and receiving electronic communications from outside the computer system.

162. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein each link in the plurality of links is included in storage at a request of a second user.

163. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the list of links is ~~presented in response to the computer system receiving at least one identifier from the third computer~~ a subset of the plurality of links and wherein the subset is determined in response to the computer system receiving a request made by the third user based on at least one identifying criterion.

164. (previously presented) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the software is further adapted to cause the computer system to store at least one of the digital information blocks.

165. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein the software is further adapted to cause the computer system to record when a link has been used and ~~[[a]]the~~ respective digital information block has been downloaded.

166. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein, for the plurality of N links, the computer readable instructions are configured to cause the computer system to store each link and its associated at least one identifier are stored in at least one database.

167. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, ~~further comprising wherein the computer system further comprises~~ at least one communications subsystem ~~[[for]]and wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the at least one communications subsystem to transmit and receive transmitting and receiving electronic communications from outside the computer system.~~

168. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein ~~the list of links is presented in response to the computer system receiving at least one identifier from the third user~~ listing of N links contains a subset of a plurality of links stored by the computer system and wherein the subset is determined in response to the computer system receiving a request from the third user based on at least one identifying criterion.

169. (withdrawn – currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the order of the listing of N links is established by evaluating the bid amount, a time of entry of the bid amount, and at least one additional criterion.

170. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in ~~claim 107~~ claim 112, ~~wherein the bid amount is paid when a third user selects a particular link, downloads the associated digital information block, and takes an action required by the second user associated with the selected link~~ wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer system to act as an intermediary facilitating the execution of a contract, between a second user and the third user, in a marketplace wherein the second user agrees to pay the bid amount if the third user supplies a medical diagnosis report for reading a respective electronic medical image of the digital information block under the control of that second user.

171-173. (canceled)

174. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the ~~ordering of the list of links is established by using the electronic labeling of the digital information block~~ listing of N links is ordered by the computer system, responsive to the computer readable instructions, to the bid amounts associated with the links, and to the at least one identifier associated with the links.

175. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 174, wherein the ~~electronic labeling at least one identifier~~ includes at least one of the following: modality of a medical image, subspecialty medical specialty, speed of response by time limit for receiving a response from the third user, and body part.

176. (withdrawn – currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the order in the ~~list of links~~ listing of N links is determined by non-monetary variables.

177. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the ~~software is~~ computer readable instructions are further adapted to cause the computer system to record when a link has been used and ~~[[a]]~~ the respective digital information block has been downloaded.

178-196. (canceled)

197. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 105, wherein each electronic medical image is selected from the group consisting of an X-Ray, an EKG, an EEG, an MRI, a CT, an NM, a PET, a blood test, and a microscope image.

198. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 105, wherein the second users are patients or gatekeepers requesting a diagnostic reading of their respective electronic medical

image and wherein the third user is a diagnostic service provider for providing diagnostic readings.

199. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 198, wherein a bid amount associated with a respective electronic medical image is a fee that the respective patient or gatekeeper agrees to pay a diagnostic service provider for a medical diagnosis report for the respective electronic medical image.

200. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 198, wherein the computer system is configured to function as an electronic marketplace for the diagnostic reading of electronic medical images.

201. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 200, wherein the computer system is configured to function as an electronic marketplace in which market forces of supply and demand are allowed to operate freely.

202. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 200, wherein the computer system is configured to function as an electronic marketplace in which diagnostic service providers compete against one another for electronic medical images to read, while patients or gatekeepers compete against one another for diagnostic service providers' time.

203. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 198, wherein the computer system is configured to receive, from the third user, a medical diagnosis report containing the diagnostic reading of the electronic medical image that the third user selected and downloaded for viewing.

204. (new) The computer system as recited in claim 198, wherein the computer system is configured to supply to a respective patient or gatekeeper a medical diagnosis report containing the diagnostic reading of the respective patient's or gatekeeper's electronic medical image.

205. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 112, wherein each electronic medical image is selected from the group consisting of an X-Ray, an EKG, an EEG, an MRI, a CT, an NM, a PET, a blood test, and a microscope image.

206. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 112, wherein the second users are patients or gatekeepers requesting a diagnostic reading of their respective electronic medical image and wherein the third user is a diagnostic service provider for providing diagnostic readings.

207. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 206, wherein a bid amount associated with a respective electronic medical image is the fee that the respective patient or gatekeeper agrees to pay a diagnostic service provider for a medical diagnosis report for the respective electronic medical image.

208. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 206, wherein the computer readable instructions are adapted to cause the computer system to function as an electronic marketplace for the diagnostic reading of electronic medical images.

209. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 208, wherein the computer readable instructions are adapted to cause the computer system to function as an electronic marketplace in which market forces of supply and demand are allowed to operate freely.

210. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 208, wherein the computer readable instructions are adapted to cause the computer system to function as an electronic marketplace in which diagnostic service providers compete against one another for electronic medical images to read, while patients or gatekeepers compete against one another for diagnostic service providers' time.

211. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 206, wherein the computer readable instructions are adapted to cause the computer system to receive, from the diagnostic service

provider, a medical diagnosis report containing the diagnostic reading of the electronic medical image that the diagnostic service provider selected and downloaded for viewing.

212. (new) The storage medium as recited in claim 206, wherein the computer readable instructions are adapted to cause the computer system to supply to a respective patient or gatekeeper a medical diagnosis report containing the diagnostic reading of the respective patient's or gatekeeper's electronic medical image.